

## ABSTRACT

Method of processing payments for goods and services using electronic payment via a peer-to-peer network includes an order for the relevant goods or services being placed by a purchaser using a payment request terminal. The payment request terminal conveys purchaser payment information to a purchase request peer within the network. In response to the conveyed information, the purchase request peer locates within the network a payment-processing peer with the ability to generate a charge against a specified account via a payment-processing terminal. The purchase request peer forwards the information through the network (via zero or more message-passing peers) to the payment-processing peer. The payment-processing peer attempts to generate the charge, and then returns the result of the attempt (successful or unsuccessful) to the purchase request peer and any other peers that have registered an interest in this information. The purchase request peer then provides this information to the payment request terminal if necessary.